

# California Offshore Wind Energy Lease Sale Announced by DOI

## WHAT

**May 26, 2022:** Department of the Interior (DOI) announced proposed auctions for offshore wind leases in two wind energy areas (WEAs) off California's coast. The "proposed sale notice" (PSN) proposes to offer multiple lease areas for sale in each wind energy area. The 60-day comment period for the PSN began on May 30, 2022.

## WHERE

The WEAs are off California's north and central coasts:

1. **Humboldt Wind Energy Area:** ~1.5 GW with two lease areas.
2. **Morro Bay Wind Energy Area:** ~3 GW with three lease areas.

## HOW

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), an agency within DOI, will conduct the proposed sale. The PSN is just one step in a range of ongoing actions to facilitate developing California offshore wind energy, including:

- NEPA Environmental Assessments,
- California Coastal Commission approval under the Coastal Zone Management Act,
- California Energy Commission review of offshore wind energy potential, and
- Work by the BOEM-California Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force to coordinate federal and state efforts.

On May 6, 2022, an [Environmental Assessment](#) finding no significant impact for the Humboldt WEA was published. The public comment period for the [Morro Bay WEA Environmental Assessment](#) closed on May 16.

## NEXT STEPS

1. **Qualification:** Entities wishing to participate in the sale must submit materials to BOEM during the 60-day comment period on the PSN, unless the entity already received BOEM confirmation that it is qualified to participate. Per the PSN, 23 wind developers have already qualified to bid.
2. **Public Comment:** PSN seeks public comment on the proposed lease sale and input from community stakeholders such as tribal governments, unions, commercial and recreational fishermen, underserved communities, agencies and others. To electronically submit public comment on the PSN, go to [https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM\\_FRDOC\\_0001-0589](https://www.regulations.gov/document/BOEM_FRDOC_0001-0589).
3. **Sale Date:** A lease sale could occur in fall 2022. There are potential issues that could push this timeline back.

